## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSC-01 /031 W

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O 080956Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5421

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 07486

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MILL RP

SUBJECT: STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD - MAY 16, 1978

THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD, THE KEY COORDINATING ORGAN FOR TENDING TO PROBLEMS ARISING AT THE BASES, WILL HOLD ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING AT THE EMBASSY MAY 16. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS THE US MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1951. THE PHILIPPINE MEMBER IS THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO EITHER ATTENDS OR CONVEYS A MESSAGE TO THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING. WHILE THE SECRETARY OF STATE DOES NOT NORMALLY ATTEND THE MEETING, IT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS FOR HIM TO SEND A MESSAGE. AT A TIME WHEN SOME PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO QUESTION THE US COMMITMENT TO THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY UNDER-SCORING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR VALUE. PROVIDED BELOW IS A PROPOSED TEXT FOR WHICH WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE APPROVAL BY MAY 14: BEGIN QUOTE. I REGRET THAT I CANNOT BE WITH YOU ON THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD TO EXPRESS PERSONALLY MY ADMIRATION AND THANKS FOR THE BOARD'S MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE YEARS. CONFIDENTIAL.

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THERE IS NO MORE IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR BETWEEN SOVEREIGN AND EQUAL ALLIES THAN TO ENSURE THAT SHARED SECURITY OBJECTIVES ARE PURSUED WITH CANDOR, EFFECTIVENESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT. THE BOARD HAS DONE A SUPERB JOB IN THIS ROLE AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN COUNT ON ITS CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD. END QUOTE. TOUSSAINT

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